Childhood Poverty

Definition: Percentage of children (aged 17 or under) living below the poverty level.

Healthy People 2010 Goal 2: Eliminate Health Disparities - Income and Education

Why Is It Important?

Poverty in the early years of a child's life, more than at any other time, has especially harmful effects on continuing healthy development and well-being, including developmental delays and infant mortality. Well-being in later childhood, such as teen pregnancy, substance abuse, and educational attainment, are also influenced by early childhood poverty.[38]
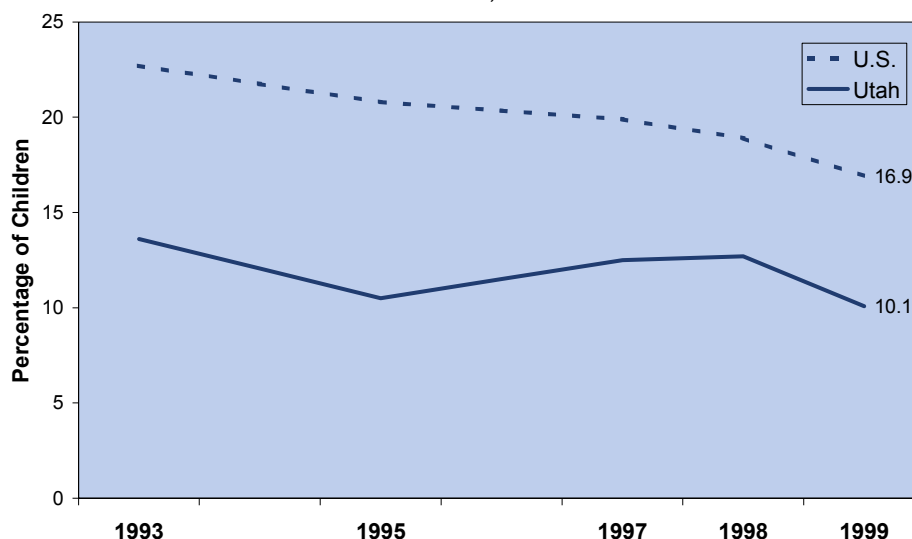
Risk Factors for Childhood Poverty

One of the best ways for adults to avoid poverty is to get a good education. Adolescents who give birth are more likely to live in poverty, as are those with poor geographic access to well-paying jobs.
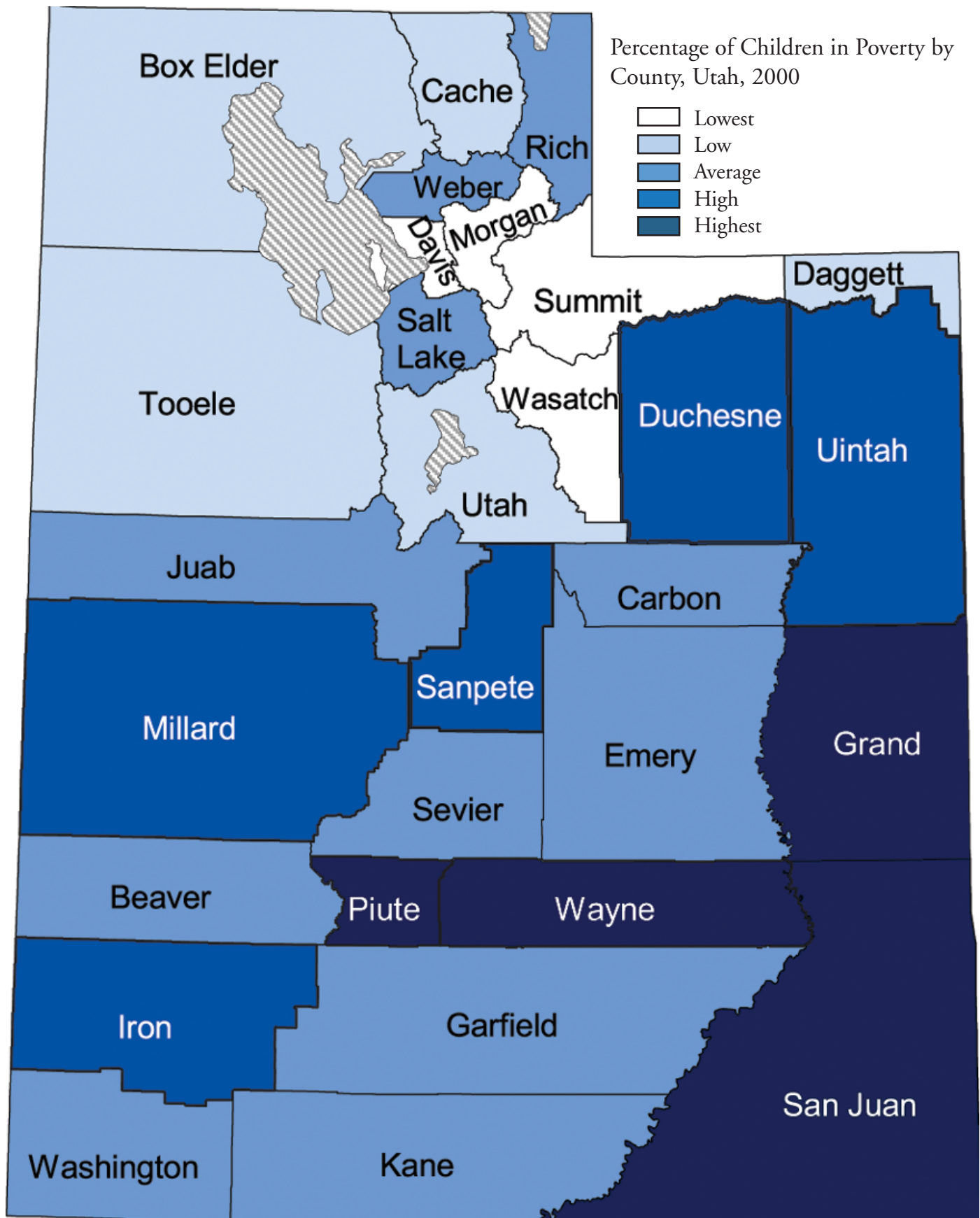
The association between poverty and health status is probably bi-directional. That is, persons with chronic mental or physical illness are less able to achieve their educational goals and compete for high-paying jobs. At the same time, persons who have lower incomes are less able to afford health care and may have less healthy lifestyles. For example, persons with lower education and income levels are more likely to smoke cigarettes and less likely to get regular exercise. There is also evidence that untreated mental health conditions, such as depression, often leads to both poor physical health and low income and educational attainment.[4, 39]

Child Poverty Ranking, 2000	Percent
Morgan	5.5%
Davis	7.1%
Summit	7.3%
Wasatch	8.7%
Daggett	9.1%
Tooele	9.3%
Box Elder	9.5%
Utah	10.0%
Cache	10.4%
Salt Lake	10.6%
Weber	11.9%
Beaver	13.0%
Rich	13.4%
Juab	13.5%
Emery	14.6%
Carbon	16.4%
Sevier	16.4%
Kane	16.5%
Garfield	16.7%
Washington	16.7%
Millard	17.3%
Sanpete	18.1%
Uintah	18.6%
Iron	19.8%
Duchesne	20.2%
Grand	21.3%
Wayne	23.3%
Piute	24.9%
San Juan	26.7%

Percentage of Children Living Below the Poverty Level, Utah and U.S., 1993-1999

Source: U.S. Current Population Survey

Box Elder

Cache

Rich

Weber

Morgan

Davis

Percentage of Children in Poverty by County, Utah, 2000

☐	Lowest
☐	Low
☐	Average
☐	High
☐	Highest

Daggett

Summit

Salt Lake

Tooele

Wasatch

Duchesne

Uintah

Utah

Juab

Carbon

Sanpete

Millard

Emery

Grand

Sevier

Beaver

Piute

Wayne

Iron

Garfield

San Juan

Washington

Kane

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Child Poverty by County
Utah Children Ages 0-17, 2000

Rank	Area of Residence	Child Population (Ages 0-17)	Number of Children	Percentage of Children (Ages 0-17) in Poverty		
				Crude Rates		
					90% Confidence Interval	
					Lower	Upper
	State Total	707,036	78,481	11.1%	(9.6% -	12.5%)
12	Beaver	1,984	258	13.0%	(9.6% -	16.4%)
7	Box Elder	15,021	1,427	9.5%	(7.2% -	11.9%)
9	Cache	28,076	2,920	10.4%	(7.9% -	12.8%)
16	Carbon	5,432	891	16.4%	(12.2% -	20.6%)
5	Daggett	197	18	9.1%	(6.5% -	11.8%)
2	Davis	82,901	5,886	7.1%	(5.4% -	8.8%)
25	Duchesne	5,019	1,014	20.2%	(15.1% -	25.3%)
15	Emery	3,568	521	14.6%	(10.9% -	18.3%)
19	Garfield	1,431	239	16.7%	(12.0% -	21.4%)
26	Grand	2,211	471	21.3%	(15.6% -	27.1%)
24	Iron	10,393	2,058	19.8%	(14.8% -	24.7%)
14	Juab	3,096	418	13.5%	(10.1% -	16.9%)
18	Kane	1,684	278	16.5%	(11.8% -	21.1%)
21	Millard	4,352	753	17.3%	(12.7% -	21.8%)
1	Morgan	2,509	138	5.5%	(3.9% -	7.1%)
28	Piute	389	97	24.9%	(18.0% -	31.7%)
13	Rich	626	84	13.4%	(9.8% -	17.0%)
10	Salt Lake	269,273	28,543	10.6%	(8.1% -	13.1%)
29	San Juan	5,089	1,359	26.7%	(15.1% -	38.2%)
22	Sanpete	7,209	1,305	18.1%	(13.6% -	22.6%)
16	Sevier	6,170	1,012	16.4%	(12.4% -	20.5%)
3	Summit	8,808	643	7.3%	(5.3% -	9.2%)
6	Tooele	14,602	1,358	9.3%	(7.0% -	11.7%)
23	Uintah	8,338	1,551	18.6%	(14.0% -	23.1%)
8	Utah	127,040	12,704	10.0%	(7.7% -	12.4%)
4	Wasatch	5,356	466	8.7%	(6.4% -	11.1%)
19	Washington	28,221	4,713	16.7%	(12.6% -	20.7%)
27	Wayne	806	188	23.3%	(15.6% -	31.0%)
11	Weber	60,235	7,168	11.9%	(9.1% -	14.7%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, Small Area Estimates Branch